

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1360

By Crider

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bob Parkins of Milan.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Parkins; and

WHEREAS, Bob Parkins was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parkins served with acumen and alacrity as founder, editor, publisher, owner, reporter, photographer, columnist, and overall driving force of the *Milan Mirror-Exchange* newspaper from its inception in 1965 until his death on April 17, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Henry Clay and Drudie Bernice Edwards Parkins, Bob Parkins was born on July 12, 1929, in Bolivar; a graduate of Milan High School, he played football at the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, he received his master's degree in Dairy Agriculture at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; he also earned a degree in Journalism; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parkins ably served his country for four years in the United States Air Force as a communications specialist with top secret clearance, and spent two years in the Panama Canal Zone; and

WHEREAS, Bob Parkins commenced his career in journalism as a reporter for the *Commercial Appeal* based in Milan, before he and his wife, Dorris Parkins, started the *Milan Mirror-Exchange*; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure as a journalist, Bob Parkins earned the respect of his peers and the community alike for the exemplary quality of his work and for his unflagging commitment to reporting the truth; and

WHEREAS, renowned for his love of writing and the journalism business, Bob Parkins wrote news stories, features, editorials, and headlines and decided the content of page one every week; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, he won several first-place awards from the Tennessee Press Association and the Tennessee School Board Association for exemplary reporting and writing, was named the Milan Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year, and was a Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, active in newspapers statewide, Mr. Parkins rendered sterling service as president of the Tennessee Press Association, Tennessee Press Service, and Tennessee Press Foundation; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected citizen of Milan, Bob Parkins contributed his time, talents, and leadership acumen to his community in numerous capacities, including as president of the Graball Community Club, Milan Rotary Club, MHS Quarterback Club, Milan Chamber of Commerce, West Tennessee Heart Association, Milan High School Alumni Association, and Milan YMCA executive board; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in founding the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum, which he served as president for twenty-six outstanding years; in addition, he served as a member of the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Board, committee member for the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame, into which he was inducted, and chairman of the Gibson County Gas Utility Board; and

WHEREAS, a deeply patriotic gentleman, he always led the singing of *God Bless America* at his Rotary Club meetings and was instrumental in the building of a veterans monument at City Park honoring local servicemen who lost their lives in war; and

WHEREAS, Bob Parkins was a frequent blood donor and, distinguishing himself as a public servant of the highest order, was recently honored for having donated more than seventeen gallons of blood to the West Tennessee blood center; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman, Mr. Parkins enjoyed hunting turkey and deer; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of Sitka Church of Christ, which he served faithfully for many years as an elder; and

WHEREAS, Bob Parkins was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-four years, the former Dorris Lee Fly, and was the proud father of eight children, Deborah Lee Ayers, married to Dick, Melanie Dawn Day, married to DeWitt, Tamara Claire Dunnebacke, married to Kevin, Paris Denise Parkins, Scarlet Dru Elliot, married to Marty, Crystal Fly Parkins, Denton Clay Parkins, married to Donna, and Victor Bob Parkins, married to Carol; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his ten grandchildren, Jordan Myranda Parkins, Holly Elizabeth Parkins, Austyn Douglas Dunnebacke, Casen Lee Dunnebacke, Deborah Lee Day, Walker Denton Parkins, Kendall Denice Parkins, Clay Parkins Elliott, Demi Esther Elliott, and Bob Alan Elliott, and a brother, Jerry Parkins, married to Jo; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Jimmy Parkins, and a sister, Mary Francis Humphreys; and

WHEREAS, Bob Parkins leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bob Parkins, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Parkins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.